

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 137 (cancelled)

Claim 138 (original)

A method of manufacturing a reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product; said reclosable bag including at least one sheet of web material having at least two areas of structural weakness; at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness; a gusseted portion located generally opposite said fold structure, and an opening located generally between said fold structure and said gusseted portion; a reclosable fastener assembly including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom; said skirt structure including a distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said opening; said reclosable fastener assembly extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure; a backing strip located opposite said opening and between said skirt structure; said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product, said method comprising:

folding said sheet of web material along a predetermined folding area to produce said fold structure;

attaching said backing strip to said skirt structure;

inserting said reclosable fastener assembly into said fold structure;

coupling said distal margin of said integral skirt structure to said web material;

folding said web material to produce said gusseted portion;

sealing said web material along at least two predetermined linear areas located generally perpendicular to said fold structure;

filling said reclosable bag with at least one food product through said opening; and

sealing said opening.

Claim 139 (original)

The method of claim 138 further including the step of inserting and sealing a header material into said predetermined fold area at least prior to the step of sealing said web along at least two predetermined linear areas.

Claim 140 (original)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:  
a reclosable fastener assembly coupled to said reclosable bag;

said reclosable bag having a gusseted portion located substantially opposite said reclosable fastener assembly;

said reclosable bag further including at least one side opening located between said reclosable fastener assembly and said gusseted portion of said reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product.

Claim 141 (original)

The reclosable bag of claim 140 wherein said reclosable fastener assembly includes a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin.

Claim 142 (original)

The reclosable bag of claim 141 wherein the integral-skirt includes an outside surface and an inside surface, and wherein each of said surfaces includes a respective upper and lower portion.

Claim 143 (original)

The reclosable bag of claim 142 further including a backing strip located opposite said opening and between said inside surface and said opening;

said backing strip extending below said lower portion of said inside surface;

said backing strip including two opposed surfaces, at least a portion of one of said surfaces having an adhesive deposited thereon;

whereby said portion of said backing strip may be adhesively joined with the inside surface of the integral skirt.

Claim 144 (original)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material;

a reclosable fastener structure including a skirt structure extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at a predetermined location;

a gusseted structure located opposite said reclosable fastener structure;

an opening located between said reclosable fastener structure and said gusseted structure;

and

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening.

Claim 145 (cancelled)

Claim 146 (original)

A method of manufacturing a reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag including at least one sheet of web material; a reclosable fastener structure including a skirt structure extending therefrom; said skirt structure including a distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at a predetermined location; a gusseted structure located opposite said reclosable fastener structure; an opening located between said reclosable fastener structure and said gusseted structure; said method comprising:

- coupling said distal margin of said skirt structure to said web material;
- folding said web material to produce said gusseted structure;
- sealing said web material along at least one predetermined area located generally perpendicular to said gusseted structure;
- filling said reclosable bag with at least one food product through said opening; and
- sealing said opening.

Claim 147 (original)

A method of manufacturing a reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag including at least one sheet of web material having at least two areas of structural weakness; at least one fold structure located between and defined by said at least two areas of structural weakness; a gusseted portion located opposite said fold structure; a reclosable fastener assembly including a skirt structure extending therefrom; said skirt structure including a distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said gusseted portion; said reclosable fastener structure extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure; said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product, said method comprising:

- folding said skirt of web material along a predetermined folding area to produce said fold structure;
- inserting said reclosable fastener assembly into said fold structure;
- coupling said distal margin of said integral skirt structure to said web material;
- folding said web material to produce said gusseted portion; and
- sealing said web material along at least one predetermined linear area located generally perpendicular to said fold structure.

Claim 148 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

at least one reclosable fastener structure including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one predetermined location;

and

said pre-packaged cheese bag being filled with at least one cheese.

Claim 149 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure;

at least one reclosable fastener structure coupled to said sheet of web material at, at least one predetermined location said location being generally opposite said fold structure; and

said pre-packaged cheese bag being filled with at least one cheese.

Claim 150 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material;

a reclosable fastener structure coupled to said sheet of web material at, at least one predetermined location; and

a cheese sealed within said bag.

Claim 151 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 150 wherein said at least one sheet of web material further includes a fold structure located generally opposite said reclosable fastener structure.

Claim 152 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 148 wherein said skirt web material is integral to said reclosable fastener structure.

Claim 153 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 148 wherein said skirt web material is coupled to said reclosable fastener structure.

Claim 154 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 152 wherein said integral skirt includes an outside surface and an inside surface; the distal margin being located on the outside surface; the inside

surface including a predetermined area having a releasable adhesive material thereon; whereby a peelable seal may be formed.

Claim 155 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 148 wherein said web material of said pre-packaged bag is substantially comprised of a sheet of a parent film material having predetermined dimensions.

Claim 156 (new)

The prepackaged cheese bag of claim 148 further including at least two areas of structural weakness and wherein said fold structure is located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness.

Claim 157 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness are integral to said parent film.

Claim 158 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness extend linearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material.

Claim 159 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 158 wherein said predetermined dimension is width.

Claim 160 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 158 wherein said predetermined dimension is length.

Claim 161 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness extend non-linearly across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material.

Claim 162 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 161 wherein said predetermined dimension is width.

Claim 163 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 161 wherein said predetermined dimension is length.

Claim 164 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness extend across a predetermined dimension of said sheet of web material in a predetermined pattern.

Claim 165 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness comprise perforations.

Claim 166 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness comprise scoring.

Claim 167 (new)

The pre-packaged cheese bag of claim 156 wherein said areas of structural weakness micro-perforations.

Claim 168 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:  
means for enclosing and retaining a predetermined amount of food in said bag including at least two areas of structural weakness, having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said opening; said reclosable fastener structure extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure;

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening.

Claim 169 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:  
at least one sheet of web material including a first area of structural weakness and a second area of structural weakness;

said sheet of web material including at least one fold structure located between and defined by said first and second areas of structural weakness, and a fill opening; said sheet of web material including a first panel coupled to said fold structure adjacent said first area of structural weakness and a second panel coupled to said fold structure adjacent said second area of structural weakness;  
means for reclosably sealing said bag, said means including a male track structure and a female track structure;

said male track structure including a first fin structure of web material extending therefrom and said female track structure including a second fin structure of web material extending therefrom;

each said fin structure including a predetermined coupling portion;

said coupling portion of said first fin structure being coupled to said first panel and said coupling portion of said second fin structure being coupled to said second panel;

said means for reclosably sealing extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure;

said areas of structural weakness being located below said means for reclosably sealing; said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said fill opening.

Claim 170 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

means for enclosing and retaining a predetermined amount of food in said bag, at least one tear tape structure, at least one fold structure, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including at least one integral skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said integral skirt structure including at least one distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said enclosing means at, at least one location between said tear tape structure and said opening;

said reclosable fastener structure extending past said tear tape structure and into said fold structure;

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product.

Claim 171 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure presenting at least two sidewall structures having inside surfaces, and means for filling said bag located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including an integral skirt structure comprising a web material extending therefrom and including opposed distal margin structures;

said web material of said integral skirt structure being sealed to said inside surfaces at a plurality of predetermined sealing areas;

a barrier web material extending between and coupled to said distal margin structures.

Claim 172 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material including at least one predetermined tear area, at least one fold structure, and means for filling said bag with at least one food product, said means located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including at least one integral skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said integral skirt structure including at least one distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said tear area and said means for filling;

said means for reclosably sealing said bag extending past said tear area and into said fold structure.

Claim 173 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having a propensity to tear along at last two predetermined tear areas;

having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two tear areas, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag, said means including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said two tear areas and said opening;

said means for reclosably sealing extending past said two tear areas and into said fold structure;

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening.

Claim 174 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure located between at least two predetermined areas having a propensity to tear in a predetermined direction and presenting at least two sidewall structures having inside surfaces, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;



means for reclosably sealing said bag, said means located in said fold structure, including a skirt structure comprising a web material extending therefrom and including opposed distal margin structures;

said web material of said integral skirt structure being sealed to said inside surfaces at a plurality of predetermined sealing areas.

Claim 175 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material including at least two areas of structural weakness, having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said opening; said means for reclosably sealing said bag extending past said areas of structural weakness;

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product through said opening.

Claim 176 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material including at least two areas of structural weakness, having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness, and means for filling said bag with at least one food product, said means located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said means for filling;

said means for reclosably sealing extending past said areas of structural weakness and over said fold structure.

Claim 177 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material, at least one tear tape structure, at least one fold structure, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including at least one integral skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said integral skirt structure including at least one distal margin; said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said tear tape structure and said opening;

said means for reclosably sealing extending past said tear tape structure and over said fold structure;

said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product.

Claim 178 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material including at least two areas of structural weakness, having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness;

a gusseted portion located generally opposite said fold structure, and means for filling said bag with at least one food product, said means located between said fold structure and said gusseted portion;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said areas of structural weakness and said filling means;

said means for reclosably sealing said bag extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure.

Claim 179 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material including a first area of structural weakness and a second area of structural weakness;

said sheet of web material including at least one fold structure located between and defined by said first and second areas of structural weakness,

a gusseted portion located generally opposite said fold structure;

and means for filling said bag with at least one food product located generally between said fold portion and said gusseted portion;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a male track structure and a female track structure;

said male track structure including a first fin structure of web material extending therefrom and said female track structure including a second fin structure of web material extending therefrom;

each said fin structure including a predetermined coupling portion; said coupling portions coupled to said web material;

one of said fin structures being located adjacent said means for filling and including a backing strip;

said backing strip located generally opposite said means for filling;

said means for reclosably sealing extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure.

Claim 180 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

means for reclosably sealing coupled to said reclosable bag;

said reclosable bag having a gusseted portion located substantially opposite said means for reclosably sealing;

said reclosable bag further including at least one means for filling with at least one food product located between said means for reclosably sealing and said gusseted portion of said reclosable.

Claim 181 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at a predetermined location;

a gusseted structure located opposite said reclosable sealing means;

means for filling said bag with at least one food product located between said reclosable sealing means and said gusseted structure.

Claim 182 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:

means for enclosing and retaining a predetermined amount of food in said bag including at least two areas of structural weakness, having at least one fold structure located between and defined by said two areas of structural weakness;

a gusseted structure located opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said enclosing means at, at least one location located between said areas of structural weakness and said gusseted structure; and

said reclosable sealing means extending past said areas of structural weakness and into said fold structure.

Claim 183 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure and means for filling located generally opposite said fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag including a skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;

said skirt structure including a distal margin;

said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one predetermined location;

and

said pre-packaged cheese bag being filled with at least one cheese.

Claim 184 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

at least one sheet of web material having at least one fold structure;

means for reclosably sealing said bag coupled to said sheet of web material at, at least one predetermined location said location being generally opposite said fold structure; and

said pre-packaged cheese bag being filled with at least one cheese.

Claim 185 (new)

A pre-packaged cheese bag, said bag comprising:

means for enclosing and retaining a predetermined amount of food in said bag;

means for reclosably sealing said bag coupled to said enclosing means at, at least one predetermined location; and

a cheese sealed within said bag.

Claim 186 (new)

A reclosable bag for filling with at least one food product, said reclosable bag comprising:  
at least one sheet of web material including at least one predetermined tear area, at least one fold structure, and an opening located generally opposite said fold structure;  
a reclosable fastener structure including at least one integral skirt structure of skirt web material extending therefrom;  
said integral skirt structure including at least one distal margin;  
said distal margin being coupled to said web material at, at least one location between said tear area and said opening;  
said reclosable fastener structure extending past said tear area and over said fold structure;  
said reclosable bag capable of being filled with at least one food product.